

The UNM-Gallup Committee of Teaching Excellence presents

## Teaching Excellence Showcase

# Unlocking Biology

Teaching Non-Majors to Read, Think, and Talk Science



featuring

UNM-Gallup Associate  
Professor of Biology  
Dr. Arunachalam Muthaiyan

Scientific literacy is essential for informed decision making, yet many students in non-majors biology courses enter with limited confidence in understanding or communicating scientific ideas. “Unlocking Biology: Teaching Non-Majors to Read, Think, and Talk Science” explores Literacy Across the Curriculum strategies that build reading, reasoning, writing, and communication skills for meaningful engagement with biology. The presentation highlights practical approaches such as scaffolded reading, writing-to-learn activities, and low-stakes scientific discussions. Drawing on classroom examples and student reflections, the presentation illustrates how literacy-rich pedagogy improves comprehension, reduces science anxiety, and increases students’ willingness to participate in scientific conversations, helping non-majors connect biology to real-world issues beyond the classroom.



**Monday, April 27**



**2 p.m.**



**ZOOM**



Scan the QR code to register  
or visit [goto.unm.edu/90i1a](https://goto.unm.edu/90i1a)

**INFORMATION:** Hasani Jayasinghe,  
[hjayasinghe@unm.edu](mailto:hjayasinghe@unm.edu)

